



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Director of Health Services

At its meeting held May 20, 2003, the Board took the following action:

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Supervisor Molina made the following statement:

“Medical Malpractice claims have been substantially reduced in the past couple of years due to a strong Quality Assurance and Risk Management Program in the Department of Health Services. Such a reduction has been evidenced by the reduction in legal settlement payouts as well. In the time period between 1995 and 2000, the amount of claims filed against the County, were reduced by 200 and we saved \$10 million dollars in legal settlement payouts. These reductions are not random. Our entire Risk Management Program, staffing and supervision were strengthened substantially after the Board approved a corrective action and risk management protocol several years ago.

“After reviewing the two medical malpractice cases on today’s agenda, it concerned me that the Resident Supervision Guidelines we approved in 1998 are still not being adhered to and for that reason I was unable to support their approval.

“In light of our current financial situation, we cannot afford to begin paying out large legal settlements again and more frequently, as we did in the past. These guidelines were created and approved by this Board for a reason and they must be respected and followed.”

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Therefore, on motion of Supervisor Molina, seconded by Supervisor Yaroslavsky, unanimously carried, the Director of Health Services was instructed to report back to the Board within 30 days with findings and recommendations on the recent audit of all County hospitals that was conducted to review the adherence to Resident Supervision Guidelines and how current guidelines might be strengthened and adhered to, in order to maintain quality of care standards.

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Each Supervisor

Chief Administrative Officer

County Counsel